

unit. They said they can handle it on their own. They would rather do it that way, and I sympathize with their view, and this bill, of course, does let them opt out. So they can opt out. They get what they want out of it, but I have problems with the bill in that it puts the ESUs more under the control of the Department of Education. You know, those ESUs operate under an elected board out in the areas, and they do about what they want to do, and they do about what their local people want them to do. They provide the services, and under this bill, we are going to have them more under the control of the Department of Education, and I don't think that is the way we want to go with ESUs. I think the local board should keep that autonomy that they need out in those areas. So I would like to see some more investigation into this matter before we pass a bill which does as many new things as this bill does. So I would ask that it be bracketed until next January.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the bracketing motion. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 3 ayes, 15 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to bracket the bill.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Do you have anything else on the bill?

CLERK: Nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: On the advancement of the bill. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, I would just briefly comment. What you have in 688 is a good compromise proposal. I guess it is shown when you have the most strenuous opponent of educational service units in the body wanting to bracket the bill, and probably the most strenuous supporter of educational service units saying that she, too, would like to see the bill bracketed, and most of the folks in the middle, I think, are feeling that this is not a perfect piece of legislation. Probably when you are dealing with educational service units, there is no perfect piece of legislation but that this is a very workable compromise in that for those school districts that honestly feel they can make the best service to their students with being apart from an educational service unit, they have that right, but in this bill we are making them pay a price. They are walking away from the investment that they have made in that particular service unit. I think this is a good bill. It